

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2-6, 9 and 11-32. Claims 7 and 8 have been rewritten as new claims 31 and 32 to improve their form. Accordingly, claims 7 and 8 have been canceled. Claim 13 has been amended to depend on new claim 31 and claims 9, 16, 18-22 and 26 have been amended to depend on new claim 32. The claims have also been amended to improve their form and to delete reference numerals. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct the Cross-Reference to Related Applications to refer to §365 instead of §120. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 7 and 8 were objected to as not being in U.S. claim format. In response, Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 8 in favor of new claims 31 and 32, written in paragraph form as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 4, 12-15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23-25 and 29 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter; however, the Examiner has rejected the remaining claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Mara U.S. Patent No. 5,947,636*.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant believes it would be helpful to review the basic object of the invention as set forth in claim 30 together with the benefits that result from that invention.

The object of Applicant's invention as set forth in claim 30 is a control module that can be universally used in a large number of different units in different performance classes, such as, for example, compressors, vacuum pumps, refrigerant dryers, and similar devices. The control module does not have to be adapted to the unit, in each instance, on the hardware side. Instead, adaptation takes place purely from the software side, by loading the data profile that corresponds to the particular unit.

As a result of Applicant's invention, a manufacturer of compressors, for example, whose product line includes 30 models, needs only one standardized control that he can use in every model of his product line. The standardized control is one universal model in which 30 data profiles are stored in memory. Each data profile is assigned to a unit. During start-up, all that is required is to call up the data profile that belongs to the product in question.

The control module, as set forth in claim 30, has also the ability to be exchanged between different units. Thus, a device with unchanged hardware can be used first in a 30 KW compressor, and then work in a 1.5 kW vacuum pump; all that needs to be done is for the other data profile to be selected.

According to the invention as set forth in claim 30, not only the device-specific data profiles but also different control characteristics and limit values are stored in the memory of the software. Thus, the same module can regulate a pump having a complex packet identifier (PID) characteristic one day, and one having a simple characteristic the next.

Mara fails to disclose an electronic control system in which the central data memory contains both aggregate specific data profiles that can be called up as well as the data belonging to the aggregates and their components with respect to the control characteristics and limit values. Mara discloses a self-propelled machine for repairing road damage. The machine requires a compressor (519) and a vacuum pump (532) in order to operate. The compressor is controlled by way of a pressure controller (117), the vacuum pump is controlled by a vacuum controller (118). See Figure 3A.

Both devices are controlled by a Main System Computer MSC (100). See column 8, lines 53 to 58.

The MSC (100) controls the entire machine. Thus, the MSC controls not only the pressure controller (117) and the vacuum controller (118), but also the vacuum nozzles (542) and the scanner array (513), among other things.

With regard to the machine according to *Mara*, the standardized control according to Applicant's invention can optionally replace the pressure controller (117) or the vacuum controller (118). Furthermore, the standardized control can also be used outside of the rapid road repair vehicle, for example in a refrigerant dryer of a cold-storage building.

The standardized control, however, cannot fulfill the overriding function of the MSC (100) of *Mara*, i.e. the control of the pressure controller and the vacuum controller, and the evaluation of the data of the scanner array and the turn-on control of the vacuum nozzles, nor does Applicant intend for the standardized control to do so.

It is respectfully submitted that it is incorrect to compare Applicant's invention with the Main System Computer according to Mara. Instead, the MSC of Mara corresponds to the "primary coordinating system of the user" as shown in FIG. 1 of Applicant's disclosure.

To better explain the functional correspondences between the machine according to Mara and the control according to Applicant's claim 30, Applicant has attached hereto a sketch, which is derived from Applicant's Figure 1. In the sketch, the corresponding functional groups of the control of the rapid road repair vehicle are entered. This sketch should be compared with Figure 3A of Mara.

Mara fails to give any indication that the pressure controller (117) and the vacuum controller (118) are one device that is identical on the hardware side, which merely differs in terms of the loaded software. Mara also fails to disclose that the control of the vacuum pump and the air compressor could also be used outside the rapid road repair vehicle, for example in the refrigerant dryer of a cold-storage building.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claim 30 and dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, 9, 11, 16, 18, 22, 26-28 and 31-32 are not anticipated by Mara and are therefore patentable along with claims 4, 12-15, 17, 19-21, 23-25 and 29, which the Examiner has indicated contain allowable subject matter.

In summary, claims 2-6, 9, 11-30 have been amended, claims 7 and 8 have been canceled, and new claims 31 and 32 have been added. The specification has also been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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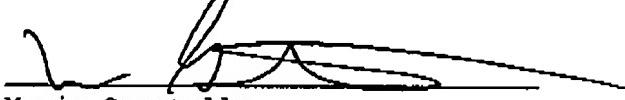
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Enclosure: Sketch

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 30, 2004.


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